

REMARKS

In response to the above-noted Office Action, Applicant has amended Claim 1 to indicate that the spherical head is integral with the screw-threaded body, to provide that vertical bore (11) is threaded, and to specify that screw-threaded socket (21) cooperates with said threaded vertical bore.

In rejecting the claims, the Examiner relies upon the combination of Biedermann et al. and Schultheiss et al. Applicant believes that the amendments which have been made to the claims caused the claims to be patentably distinguishable over the cited references for the following reasons.

Referring first to Biedermann et al., the Examiner relies upon element 16 as the connecting element, and element 20 as the blocking device. However, as called for in the claims, Applicant's connecting element includes a threaded vertical bore. As best seen in Figure 1, the threaded bore 11 cooperates with screw-threaded socket 21 which is part of the blocking device such that the screw-threaded socket 21 cooperates with, i.e., screws into, the threaded bore 11. By way of contrast, Biedermann's blocking device 20 does not contain any threads. Element 16, referred to by the Examiner as the connector, includes threads. However, it appears that such threads are for cooperating with the threads of locking member 45 as shown in Figures 1 and 3 and described in column 3, lines 13-15. Thus, the structure defined by Applicant in claim 1 is clearly differentiated from the structure taught by Biedermann. Regarding the teaching in Schultheiss of an anchoring system wherein the diameter of the spherical head is smaller than the diameter of the threads, presumably, the Examiner is referring to Figure 5. However, as is made clear in Schultheiss, head 58 is not integral with the screw. See column 6, lines 24-25. Although Schultheiss does disclose a screw head integral with the screw, such teaching is with reference to Figure 4 in which the screw head 60 is not spherical and has a diameter wider than the screw head.

Thus, combining Schultheiss et al. with Biedermann et al. would result in a spherical head having a smaller diameter than the threads, but which is not integral with the threads, or a spherical head with threads as an integral unit but having a screw head which has a larger diameter. Further, even if Schultheiss et al., is construed as teaching a spherical head integral with a screw-threaded bore having a diameter which is larger than the diameter of the spherical

head, such combination would differ from the invention, as claimed, due to the differences in construction between the device as defined in Claim 1, as amended, and Biedermann et al.

Since the remaining claims each depend directly or indirectly from Claim 1 which is allowable for the reasons noted above, Applicant submits that the claims pending for examination, namely Claims 1-9 are now in condition for allowance, which early action is requested.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666. If a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this Application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (310) 207-3800.

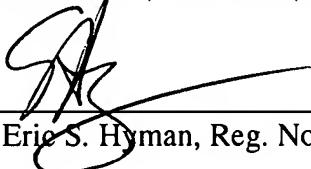
Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR, & ZAFMAN

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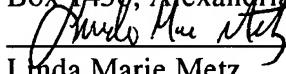
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Linda Marie Metz

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